

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PINT, PGOV, UK

SUBJECT: SCOTTISH REACTION TO BUDGET SPEECH

ON THE WHOLE MR. HEALEY'S BUDGET WAS RECEIVED WITH SOME RELIEF IN SCOTLAND. THERE WERE THE PREDICTABLE CRITICAL COMMENTS BY LEN MURRAY, TUC GENERAL SECRETARY, AND THE CHARGE OF CLIVE JENKINS, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL STAFF THAT THERE WON'T BE A PHASE THREE OF THE INCOME FREEZE, WHILE SCOTLAND'S SHADOW SECRETARY TEDDY TAYLOR CLAIMS SCOTLAND HAS ONCE AGAIN BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BY WESTMINSTER.

THE ABERDEEN PRESS AND JOURNAL DESCRIBES THE BUDGET AS A MIXED BAG BUT A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AND THE BEGINNING OF A NEW HOPE. THE EDINBURGH SCOTSMAN IS OF THE OPINION THAT A SOBER, EVEN PESSIMISTIC SENSE OF REALISM SEEMS TO HAVE ENTERED THE TREASURY'S CALCULATION. THE GLASGOW HERALD STATES THAT AS RESOURCEFUL AS EVER MR. HEALEY HAS PRODUCED A BUDGET FOR THE TIMES AND DESCRIBES THE BUDGET AS A DOCUMENT OF POLITICAL AND FISCAL INGENUITY WHICH WOULD BE HARD TO EQUAL.

THE MAJOR PROBLEM IN SCOTLAND PRESENTED IN THE BUDGET IS THE
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HIGHER FUEL AND VEHICLE DUTIES. THIS NEWS WAS RECEIVED WITH DISMAY IN THE NORTH AND NORTH-EAST OF SCOTLAND. THE VAST AREAS ARE NOT COVERED BY THE RAIL NETWORK AND RURAL DWELLERS RELY ON THEIR CARS FOR PERSONAL TRANSPORTATION AND ON THE ROAD HAULIERS FOR SUPPLIES. IT IS ALREADY ESTIMATED THAT THERE WILL BE A TWO AND A HALF PER CENT INCREASE IN COSTS WHICH WILL BE PASSED ON TO THE CONSUMER - MORE IF THE FUEL

COMPANIES RECEIVE PERMISSION TO RAISE THE COST OF FUEL
ANOTHER 2 CENTS A GALLON.

IT IS ON THIS ASPECT OF THE BUDGET THAT THE LOCAL PRESS IS
ZERO-ING IN ON TODAY. THE SCOTSMAN LEAD STORY IS PETROL TAX
HEADS FOR A CRASH WHILE THE GLASGOW HERALD'S LEAD IS
GOVERNMENT FACES DEFEAT - MUTINY ON PETROL PRICE RISE.

DOBBS

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Message Attributes

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